

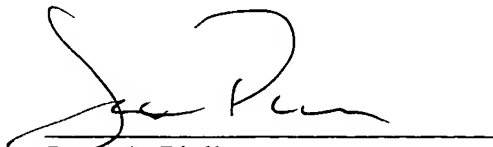
REMARKS

Claims 1-24 have been cancelled. New claims 25 and 26 have been added. New claims 25 and 26 were copied from claims 42 and 108 from United States Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0220653, which was published on November 27, 2003. Note that claims 1-24 have been canceled solely to expedite prosecution of claims 25 and 26 which are also claimed in United States Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0220653 and so their cancellation is not related to patentability as defined in *Festo Corporation v. Shoketsu Kinzoku Kogyo Kabushiki Co., Ltd*, 234 F.3d 558, 56 USPQ2d 1865 (Fed. Cir. 2000) (*en banc*), *overruled in part*, 535 U.S. 722, 122 S. Ct. 1831 (2002). Claims 25 and 26 are being added so as to correspond to claims 42 and 108 of United States Patent Application Publication No. US2003/0220653 and so they are being presented for reasons not related to patentability as defined in *Festo*.

If the Examiner feels that personal communication would facilitate the prosecution of this case, applicants request that the Examiner contact their attorney at the number listed below.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment of any additional filing fees required under 37 C.F.R. § 1.16 and any patent application processing fees under 37 C.F.R. § 1.17 associated with this communication or credit any overpayment to deposit account No. 23-1925. A duplicate copy of this Amendment is enclosed.

Respectfully submitted,



Janet A. Pioli
Registration No. 35,323
Attorney for Applicants

Dated: November 24, 2004

BRINKS HOFER GILSON & LIONE
P.O. BOX 10395
CHICAGO, ILLINOIS 60610
(312) 321-4281